

The Library Assistant:

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

INAUGURAL MEETING AT STATIONERS' HALL.

As already announced, the **Inaugural Meeting of the Eighteenth Session** will take place in the Hall of the Worshipful Company of Stationers, Stationers' Hall Court, Ludgate Hill, E.C., on **Wednesday, 16th October, at 7.30 p.m.** The **Very Rev. W. R. INGE, D.D., Dean of St. Paul's**, will deliver the inaugural address, and the chair will be occupied by **G. E. Briscoe Eyre, Esq., M.A., J.P.**, Master of the Stationers' Company.

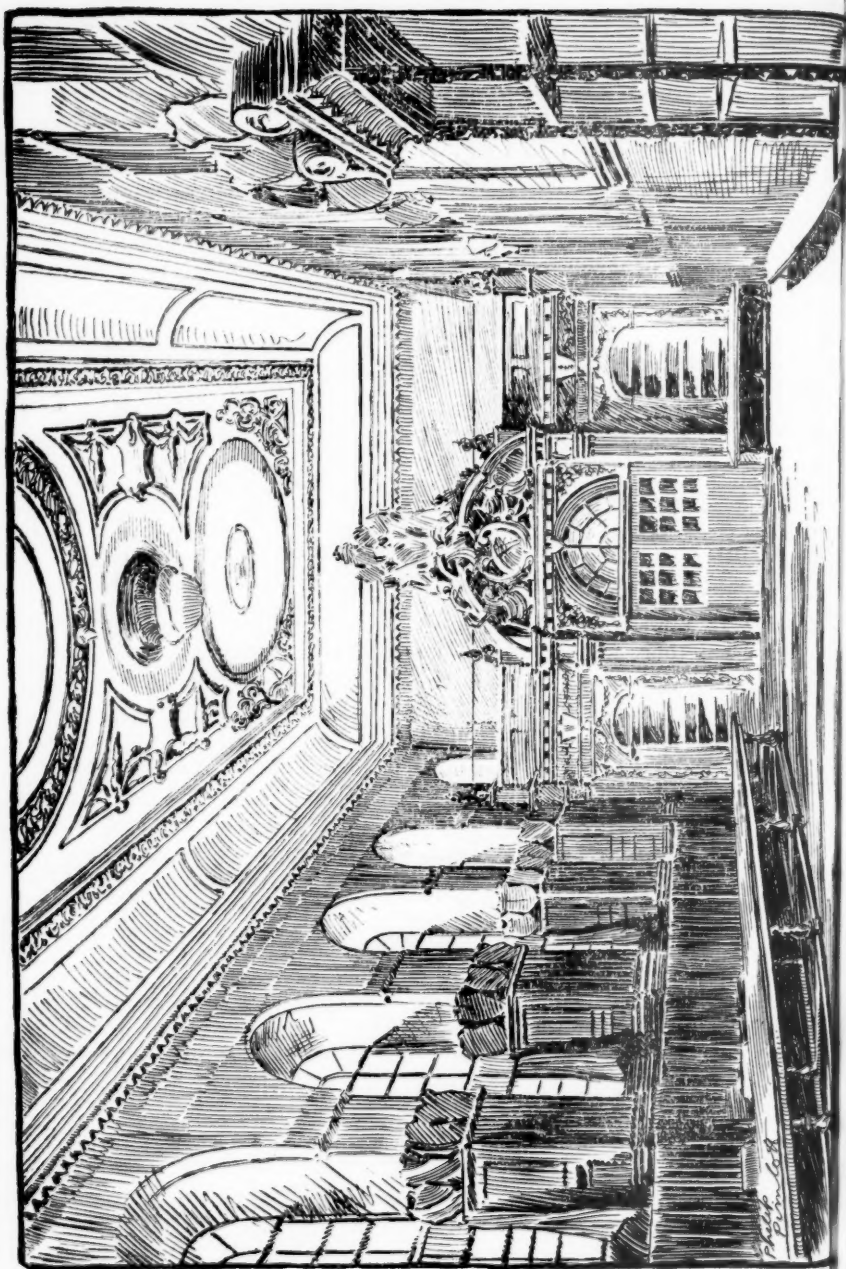
The following gentlemen have also kindly promised to be present:—**Edmund Gosse, Esq., C.B.**, Librarian to the House of Lords; **G. K. Fortescue, Esq., LL.D.**, Keeper of the Printed Books, British Museum; **C. J. Drummond, Esq.**, Chairman of the St. Bride Foundation Institute; **H. R. Tedder, Esq.**, Librarian and Secretary of the Athenæum; **Bernard Kettle, Esq.**, Corporation Librarian.

The meeting promises to be an outstanding one in the annals of the L.A.A., and a cordial invitation to be present is extended to every librarian—chief and assistant—as well as to all those interested in library affairs. Members of Library Committees are especially invited, and the Council relies upon individual members of the Association to make this invitation as widely known as possible.

PRIZE GIVING.

At this meeting the prizes for the most professionally interesting accounts of the L.A.A. International Easter School in Paris will be presented.

Also the Potter-Briscoe prize for the best paper read by a library assistant before any professional association in the United Kingdom.



THE STATIONERS' HALL.

By the courtesy of the Editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, we are able to give an excellent sketch of the interior of the Stationers' Hall, where the Inaugural Meeting of the Session is to be held on October 16th.

The first Stationers' Hall was built in 1553 in Milk Street, Cheapside, but in 1611 the Stationers' Company of London purchased a ducal residence on the site of the present building, and used it as their hall. This was destroyed by the Great Fire of 1666, in which the booksellers of London are said to have lost £200,000 worth of books, and the hall now standing was erected in 1670. From "writers and limners" there grew in time the Company of Stationers—one of the most famous of the city guilds. It was incorporated by Royal charter in 1557, directed to "the Master and wardens and commonalty of the mistery or art of Stationers of the City of London," the members of the Company being made "freemen of the mistery." Printers were required to serve their time to a member of the Company, and all publications had to be "entered at Stationers' Hall." In the early days of the Company, however, Royal licenses were issued to obviate this. From 1576 till now the registers are intact. From 1571 to 1576 the records are missing, but from 1554 to 1571 the lists of books published are preserved in the account-books of the Warden of the Company. Registration enabled the members to secure two aims—to record their right to publish a certain work, and to exercise a censorship of the Press. The works of Shakespeare were all "entered at Stationers' Hall," as they appeared: "a book called Hamlet," "the Taming of the Shrew," "Romeo and Juliet," etc. Sir Philip Sidney's "Arcadia" was entered in 1588.

On July 1st the new Copyright Act came into force, rendering copy-right automatic; it is therefore no longer necessary for English authors to protect their works by registering them at Stationers' Hall. During the previous year 5,968 books and 10,143 paintings, drawings, and photographs were "entered at Stationers' Hall," the numbers having increased steadily year by year for nearly four centuries.

SOUTH COAST BRANCH.

The Inaugural Meeting of the South Coast Branch will be held on Friday, 18th October, at the Central Public Library, Eastbourne. Mr. Hardcastle and Mr. Councillor Wright are doing their utmost to afford a hearty reception, as the following programme will amply prove:—

PROGRAMME.

- 2.50 p.m. Assemble at Central Library (nearly opposite Railway Station).
- 3-4.15 p.m. Drive through Hampden Park, Willingdon, Paradise Drive, &c., by kind invitation of Mr. J. H. Hardcastle, Librarian of Eastbourne.
- 4.30 p.m. Tea served in Committee Room, by kind invitation of Mr. Councillor Wright, Chairman, Eastbourne Public Libraries Committee; after which the Library will be open for inspection.
- 6.30 p.m. Inaugural Meeting. Mr. Councillor Wright has kindly consented to preside, and Mr. Ernest Male, F.L.A. (Sub-Librarian, Brighton), Chairman of the South Coast Branch, will deliver his Inaugural Address, to be followed by a paper on "The Selection of Periodicals," by Mr. A. M. Hamblyn, of the Eastbourne Public Libraries.

It is hoped that as many assistants as possible will endeavour to be present in order that the first meeting of the South Coast Branch may be a success. We shall also be delighted to welcome any of our London friends who may be able to attend.

A. CECIL PIPER, *Hon. Secretary*, South Coast Branch, L.A.A.

EDITORIAL.

The Inaugural Meeting.—Enough has been said in the announcement and the paragraph on Stationers' Hall to show that the Meeting on October 16th promises to be among the best of its kind, and a most welcome inauguration of the Eighteenth Session of the Library Assistants' Association. A large attendance is expected, and we hope that every member will make an effort to be present and to bring as many friends and colleagues as are likely to be interested in Librarianship. We look forward with pleasure to the Inaugural Address of Dean Inge, and the presence of so many distinguished visitors will insure a most memorable gathering.

Progress in Librarianship.—Those of our members who have followed the "Work of the Council" paragraph appearing from time to time in the Journal, will remember that some time ago a Committee was formed to enquire into the ways in which the membership might be increased, and to take steps to make the work of the Association known among the greatest possible number of assistants throughout the country. The immediate work of this Committee is nearing completion, and in a short time every assistant who is not a member of the Association, whose name it has been possible to obtain, will receive a pamphlet entitled "Progress in Librarianship," together with application forms and particulars of membership. This pamphlet details the aims of the Association, and shows the need of a combined effort on the part of library assistants to improve the conditions existing in the profession of librarianship. It is recognised that the public are not fully aware of the purpose of a library. They can only be brought to a realization of the object of these institutions by means of an organized effort at making them known. There are several ways of accomplishing this; and first of all comes efficiency of work in libraries to secure recognition. Then there is a need of advertising the library as a public necessity and an integral part of the educational system of the country. And certainly of no less importance, is our own position as library assistants, which must be bettered and will receive greater consideration, the more we are able to carry out the former objects. All this, and more, the Association has at heart, and by means of this pamphlet it is hoped to gain a greatly increased support.

A Public Library Census.—The work carried out by the Committee has proved much heavier than was anticipated, but the result has been most gratifying, and has resulted in the most complete census of library assistants in public libraries that has ever been obtained. Mr. H. G. Sureties, who has acted as Honorary Secretary of the Committee, and upon whom the largest share of the work has fallen, is to be congratulated upon this excellent result, and it is confidently expected that the labour of the Committee will be rewarded by an immediate and far reaching response. We learn from Mr. Sureties that 350 library systems have been circularised, resulting in the listing of well over 1,000 non-members. The work of tabulating the returns has thrown light on several points, of which two stand out prominently. One is that the number of assistants engaged in the work can be fairly accurately gauged at about 2,500. The other is that there is a great increase in the number of women engaged in library work. This is particularly noticeable in the north and in the provinces in general. In an actual count of 1,000 provincial assistants, about 45 per cent. were women. In London the percentage is about 20 to 25; while in the profession as a whole about 33 per cent. are women. For the present it has only been possible to deal with public libraries, but it is hoped that the enquiry being undertaken by the Association into the conditions obtaining in non-municipal libraries, will lead to the possibility of extending the propaganda work, and so bringing in the greatest possible number of assistants from all the libraries in the country.

The Woolwich Public Libraries.—We protested most strongly when, over a year ago, the Lewisham Libraries' Committee, in order to effect a saving in salaries, abolished the office of Chief Librarian. We can no less emphatically condemn the action of the Woolwich Libraries' Committee in taking a similar step. It has been proved in the case of Lewisham, West Ham, and Camberwell, that so far from it being economical to save the salary of a Chief Librarian, the actual working of a series of independent libraries becomes far more expensive, and the difficulties of co-ordination greatly increase. Modern library practice has abundantly shown that the most efficient method of working the Public Libraries' Acts, is to have a centralised system of libraries, with the greatest possible freedom of interchange. The central library should contain the best possible collection of books, while each branch in addition to possessing a liberal selection of books of its own, should be enabled to

send for any book from the central store. In this way one copy of an expensive technical or other book, for which there is a limited demand, is sufficient for the needs of the whole district. In a system of independent libraries there is bound to be a large amount of unnecessary and expensive duplication; and this is only one of the many disadvantages arising from the system. We have pointed out many times the necessity of better payment to librarians to ensure efficiently trained men. Independent libraries need capable men who should be suitably paid: and the salaries' expenditure becomes actually greater than need be if the independent system is to be properly managed. Every instance of the breaking up of a library system is a retrograde step and a blow to the library movement. We have full sympathy with our Woolwich colleagues, who, we feel sure, cannot but regret the action of their Committee.

University Extension Lectures on Literature.—Our members who are reading for the literary history examination of the Library Association, may be glad to hear that two excellent courses of lectures by Mr. William H. Hudson are shortly to commence at convenient centres in London. One is a course of twenty-five lectures on "English Literature from Chaucer to Milton," being the first part of a three years' course on the history of English literature, to be given in the Jehangier Hall, London University, on Wednesday afternoons at 3 o'clock, beginning October 2nd; and at the St. Bride Institute on Monday afternoons at 2.30 p.m., beginning October 14th. The other course is by the same lecturer on "The Development of Literatures," to be given at the Central Y.M.C.A., on Thursday evenings, beginning October 3rd. We need not dwell on the excellence of Mr. Hudson as a lecturer. He is among the best serving under the University Extension Board. We should like also to take this opportunity of pointing out the value of the study of English literature to library assistants. It is perhaps the subject that is the most helpful to anyone entering into the library profession. The courses mentioned form part of the scheme of work recognised for the Diploma in Literature of London University.

The New Sessional Programme.—As promised in our last issue, we are able to give the new Programme of Monthly Meetings, which well comes up to our anticipations. Mr. W. Benson Thorne, the Secretary of the Education Committee, is to be congratulated on the success of his efforts.

THE Library Assistants' Association.

(FOUNDED 1895).

President :
Henry T. Coutts,
North Library, Islington.

Honorary Treasurer :
W. Geo. Chambers,
Plumstead Library, Woolwich.

Honorary Secretary :
W. C. Berwick Sayers,
Central Library, Croydon.

EIGHTEENTH SESSION, 1912-13.

Programme of Monthly Meetings.

The Council welcomes unreservedly all members, assistants and others interested, to these meetings. Whenever opportunity permits discussions on the various papers will be promoted. These discussions are regarded as an important feature of the Programme, and Members are recommended to attend the Meetings prepared to discuss the subjects brought forward. *Strangers attending will find it advantageous to introduce themselves at the meetings to the Hon. Secretary, who will take great pleasure in introducing them to other Members of the Association; no Member or friend need remain away because he or she does not know other Members.*

Note.—Generally speaking, the business part of the programme only is given here. There will be social features at some of the meetings. These will be announced in due course in "The Library Assistant."

Members are requested to remember that punctuality is a courtesy to our hosts and to the readers of papers.

MICHAELMAS TERM.

Wednesday, **October 16th**, at 7.30 p.m. **The Stationers' Hall, Ludgate Hill, E.C.** (By kind permission of the Worshipful Company of Stationers).

Inaugural Address by the Very Rev. Dr. W. R. INGE, Dean of St. Paul's.

The Chair will be occupied by **G. E. Briscoe Eyre, Esq., M.A., J.P.**, Master of the Stationers' Company.

Wednesday, **November 13th**, at 7.30 p.m. **24, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.**

Paper: "Increasing Facilities for Borrowing Books." By **W. Geo. Fry**, Bournemouth Public Libraries.

Paper: "Non-Resident Borrowers." By **A. Cecil Piper**, Brighton Public Libraries; Hon. Secretary, L.A.A., South Coast Branch.

Paper: "The Public Library and the Cheap Book." By **Norman Treliving**, Leeds Public Libraries; Hon. Secretary L.A.A., Yorkshire Branch.

December. Edward Edwards' Centenary. A Celebration of the Birth of the Chief Pioneer of Municipal Public Libraries one hundred years ago will be arranged in conjunction with the Library Association.

LENT AND SUMMER TERM.

Wednesday, January 15th, at 7.30 p.m. 24, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.

Conference on Second Easter School: Paris, 1912.

Introduction, with Lantern Slides, by **W. C. Berwick Sayers.**

The MacAlister Prize Essays will be read by the Prize Winners.

The Paris Album, containing contributions from those attending the School, will be on view.

Wednesday, February 12th, at 7.30 p.m. Horniman Museum and Library, London Road, Forest Hill, S.E.

Paper: "The Theory of Book Selection." By **James D. Young**, *Greenwich Public Libraries.*

Paper: "The Practice of Book Selection." By **Geo. R. Bolton**, *Sloke Newington Public Libraries.*

Wednesday, March 12th, at 7.30 p.m. 24, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.

Lecture: "Present-day Library Binding." By **Cedric Chivers.**

March 20th to 24th. THIRD INTERNATIONAL EASTER SCHOOL. Visits to and Demonstrations in the Libraries and Archives of the more interesting Cities of **Holland.** It will be necessary to limit the party, and Members who desire to join should communicate as soon as possible with **Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers** (Croydon), or **Mr. J. D. Stewart** (Islington).

Wednesday, April 9th, at 7.30 p.m. Southwark Central Public Library and Cuming Museum, 155-157, Walworth Road, S.E.

Paper: "Some Points in the Upkeep of Library Buildings." By **W. G. Hawkins**, *Fulham Public Libraries.*

Paper: "Practical Lighting Problems." By **H. G. Steele**, *Leyton Public Libraries.*

Wednesday, May 14th, at 7.30 p.m. Central Public Library, Wimbledon.

Paper: "The Library Schools of America and their Work." By **Miss Dorothy Ballen**, *London School of Economics.*

Paper: "The Library Schools of the Continent and their Work." By **Miss O. Muhlenfeld**, *Hilversum, Holland.*

June. EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING. This Meeting will be held at **Nottingham** by the kindness of **Mr. J. Potter-Briscoe, F.R.S.L.** A Programme containing matters of interest for the whole Association will be arranged, and there will be the usual Annual Business Meeting, including the election of Officers and Council,

and the adoption of the Annual Report. It is hoped that representatives from all the Branches will be present on this occasion.

WM. BENSON THORNE,

Hon. Secretary, Education Committee.

Bromley Public Library, Brunswick Road, Poplar, London, E.

L.A.A. SOUTH COAST BRANCH.—PROGRAMME OF QUARTERLY
GENERAL MEETINGS, 1912-13.

Friday, October 18th. *Eastbourne Public Library.*
Inaugural Address by Chairman (E. Male).

Paper: "The Selection of Periodicals." By A. M. Hamblyn (Eastbourne).

Wednesday, January 22nd, 1913. *Hove Public Library. Debate Evening.*

"Should Libraries be open on Sundays."

Pro.: Miss Fairweather (Brighton).

Con.: H. Mew (Hove).

"Open Access."

Pro : Miss K. Lawrence (Worthing).

Con.: Miss M. Payne (Worthing).

"Is a Printed Catalogue Necessary in Open Access Libraries?"

Pro.: R. E. Smither (Brighton).

Con.: A. Webb (Brighton).

Wednesday, April 16th. *Worthing Public Library.*

Paper: "Village Libraries." By Miss F. M. Jefferson (Brighton).

Paper: "Prints in Public Libraries." By A. Webb, Brighton Public Library.

June. *Brighton Public Library. Annual Meeting.*

Paper: "Robert Louis Stevenson." By Miss E. Gerard (Worthing).

Paper: "A Plea for the Better Representation of Twentieth Century Literature in Public Libraries." By Miss E. Young (Brighton).

Further information concerning the Branch and its meetings (to which all members of the profession are invited), can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, A. CECIL PIPER, Public Library, Brighton.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF L.A.A. TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE
SOUTH COAST BRANCH.

Miss W. Barnwell, Worthing.

J. A. Feist, Brighton.

Miss E. Gerard, Worthing.

Miss D. Groom, Worthing.

Miss D. Henwood, Worthing.

Miss F. M. Jefferson, Brighton.

W. Law, Brighton.

Miss K. Lawrence, Worthing.

E. Male, Brighton.

B. R. Moors, Portsmouth.

Miss A. M. Payne, Worthing.

Miss H. Penfold, Brighton.

A. C. Piper, Brighton.

S. J. Redgrave, Eastbourne.

A. Webb, Brighton.

Miss E. Young, Brighton.

THE SUBJECT INDEX OF THE LONDON LIBRARY.*

By C. J. PURNELL, M.A., Sub-Librarian of the London Library.

I have been asked to give an account of how the Subject Index was made, and to indicate some of its main features. This has already been done in the Preface and Notes to the Index itself, wherein all that seemed likely to interest or be of service to its users, has been set forth. Still there are some features of the work and details of its construction which can be profitably discussed for the benefit of library assistants. The Library itself contains about 250,000 volumes, and is a reference as well as a lending library. It owed its foundation rather more than 70 years ago to the requirements of Thomas Carlyle, who obtained the interest and help of many distinguished contemporaries in starting a collection of books of solid worth for circulation among subscribers. This collection has gone on increasing steadily, and as most of the books purchased for it have been selected by experts, a subject index to it must necessarily be of wide value as a bibliographical guide.

This is not the place to discuss the respective merits of dictionary or classified catalogues, but the former was unquestionably the one most suited for the requirements of the Library, and the A.L.A. list of subject headings was used as a basis upon which to work. Headings were altered and added as required, and the headings at the completion of the work totalled more than 9,000. All the books indexed were brought up to the cataloguing rooms and examined. Numerous examples might be given of misleading titles which renders subject-indexing from the titles alone impossible. One example will serve for the present. A recent pamphlet entitled "Books of reference and epitaphs" really deals with the question of the invention of postage stamps. Then too, many books contain valuable matter in appendices, so that a book with an obvious title such as a history of a reign might require several subject entries.

Long narrow slips were used for indexing, and two copies or more were typed for every book dealt with, the entry being copied from the Author Catalogue and compared with the title page. The typist added the subject heading and sub-heading whenever possible, and the books with these slips in them, were passed through to the librarian (Mr. Hagberg Wright) or the sub-librarian, who revised

* Substance of an Address before a Meeting of the Library Assistants' Association at 24, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C., March 13th, 1912.

the headings and marked the slips for duplicating under any other desirable headings. In cases of difficulty the librarian and sub-librarian consulted together, and many interesting discussions resulted. The help of experts had sometimes to be asked, and this was freely given, the Library being fortunate in having many members who are authorities in their various subjects. The revised slips were afterwards compared by one of the assistants with the list of headings, all fresh headings being entered by him in the list. Copious cross-references were then made from and to each heading. The slips were next incorporated in their drawers, guide cards being placed in front of each subject and its sub-divisions. Each book indexed was stamped on the back of the title page with a small star, and every book returned by members was examined to see if the star was there, and if not, it was at once sent up to the cataloguers.

The separate publications of Academies and learned societies were, of course, indexed as books, but the transactions and proceedings were only indexed separately when of special importance. The manner of dealing with each society is indicated in three lists at the beginning of the index, the first list being of those catalogued in detail, the second of those catalogued partly in detail and partly collectively, and the third of those catalogued collectively, *i.e.*, the whole transactions, etc., being placed as a single entry under every subject for which the society is useful.

I now propose to deal with some of the main subjects, pointing out special features.

Bibliography.—Under this heading general bibliography and the bibliographies of various literatures are placed, whereas the bibliographies of special subjects, *e.g.*, chemistry, history, etc., are placed under these headings with a special sub-heading "Bibliography."

[B.] has been placed after the entry of every book which contains a bibliography.

Biography.—The names of the subjects of biographies are given under all headings of subjects for which the person is of interest, dates of birth and death being added. These dates were often found with difficulty, many biographers seeming to do all they can to hide these important dates, and encyclopaedias and biographical dictionaries were often found to disagree. As references from the names of the biographees to the authors of the biographies were already given in the author catalogue of the library this information was not repeated, the reader

being referred to the Author Catalogue, "*see A.C.*" In some instances additional references were given to essays, &c., the form of entry being: *see A.C. under Anselm, St., 1033-1109*; [*and in Church, (R. W.) Essays, 1854*; *John of Salisbury, Op. v 5, 1848*; *Saisset, Mèl., 1859, etc.*]

History.—In order to facilitate minute division of the history of various countries, ruling sovereigns and special periods and events were made into headings, and all books dealing definitely with these periods are placed under their names and not under the country. Thus a general history of England or a history of a period covering more than three reigns will be found under England History, whereas a book dealing with the reign of Elizabeth or with the Commonwealth will not be found under England, but under Elizabeth, &c., ample references being made from the countries to the reigns and *vice versa*. The dates covered by historical works have been given in brackets except where the work was quite general. The purely military history of each country has been put under Army, *e.g.*, Army, English; Army, French, etc. Great attention was paid to the mediæval chronicles, etc., and long lists of "sources" are given under all the mediæval kings. To save space reference is often made to the Author Catalogue when the chronicle is found in various collections which are catalogued in detail; *e.g.*, an entry in the Subject Index under Henry I. of England, is as follows:—Guillaume, *de Jumièges*. Hist. (851-1137), *see A.C.* [*and in Camden, Anglica, 1602*; *comm. in Ec. des ch., t34, 1873.*] Here the *see A.C.* covers the editions in (1) Bouquet's "Recueil," (2) Duchesne's "Historia Normannorum Scriptores," (3) Guizot's "Coll. des Mémoires," and (4) "Monumenta Germaniæ Historica," the collections following the words *and in* not being referred to in the Author Catalogue. Potthast's "Bibliotheca Historica Medii Aevi" was found invaluable in this work, and it would be hard to find a more accurate work anywhere. Many quaint historical memoirs and tracts were dug out from old collections, and the Index is not without its humour. Under France, Constitution: Royal Prerogative will be found a small tract called Baisers d'Étiquette, 1699, treating of the King's right to kiss the wives of ambassadors. The entry is duplicated under Kissing and under Louis XIV.

Philosophy.—Various schemes of division for general philosophical works were suggested and tried, but the schools of thought so overlap that a division into schools

was given up and the works of modern philosophers have been arranged according to their nationality. All books dealing with special philosophical subjects are of course found under the separate headings and not under Philosophy.

Science.—Popular headings were adopted wherever possible, e.g., "Butterflies and Moths," in preference to Lepidoptera. Considerable difficulty was found in incorporating the ancient scientific works, terms having changed their meaning.

Theology.—This heading was reserved for Christian theology, books dealing with Religion generally being placed under the heading Religion, and separate headings being made for all other religions. General theological works were divided into Theology, Protestant and Theology, Roman Catholic. These headings were sub-divided according to the nationality and period of the writer. General commentaries on the Bible and on particular books of the Bible were omitted, this ground being covered by references in the Author Catalogue, but all books dealing with any special branch of Biblical study are indexed under the various sub-headings under Bible.

Topography.—The combined sub-heading Topography and Travels figures under some countries, whereas they are separated under others according to the number of entries. General topographical works are under Geography.

When the last load of books had been brought up to the cataloguing rooms and there were no more to add save new books and stragglers in the hands of members, the slips were pasted down on numbered sheets, and the result once more examined and packed off to the printers with necessary instructions as to type, etc. The proofs, already admirably read by the readers of Messrs. Spottiswoode and Co., were again compared with the copy by one of the library's assistants, and were also read by 3 or 4 of the members of the library's committee and by the sub-librarian. The compilation and printing took nearly five years. This result was only attained by the ceaseless supervision and untiring energy of the Librarian, who worked late into the night, sometimes in the summer even till day break.

The following works of reference (to mention a few) were in daily use:—Chambers' Encyclop., Grande Encyclop., Meyers Grosses Konversations-Lexicon, Nouvelle Biographie Universelle, Dictionary of National Biography, Potthast's Bibl. Medii Aevi, Chevalier's Répertoire Bio-Bibliog. et Topo-Bibliog., Gross's Sources of Eng. Hist., British Museum Subject Indexes.

THE ART AND PRACTICE OF STORY-TELLING TO CHILDREN, AND ITS POSSIBLE APPLICATION IN JUVENILE READING ROOMS.*

By MAUD M. HUMMERSTON, of the Leeds Public Libraries.

All the world loves a story. Your hair-splitting character analysis, brilliantly epigrammatic dialogue, scenic descriptions of Turner-esque vividness, are as sounding brass and tinkling cymbals to the average reader, to whom the story is the thing. It is not the written story which we are about to consider, but that more ancient form of artistry—the "tale that is told." The art of verbal story-telling has survived the evolution of the alphabet, the discovery of printing, the birth and growth of the newspaper and novel; and now, in this present century of marvels, when one may purchase "A Joy for Ever" for a shilling, and "The Heart of a Girl" for fourpence-halfpenny, when Public Libraries flourish and multiply, even now we are on the eve of a story-telling revival. This revival is of great importance to library workers, because the story-teller, not content with claiming the schools as the legitimate field of his labours, has ventured with the rashness of the enthusiast, to set foot within the precincts of our Municipal Libraries. Let us look for a moment at the different ways in which this innovation has been received in America and England.

In America the idea has been rapturously received. Stories of weird and wonderful deeds wrought in the name of story-telling drift across the Atlantic; we behold illustrations of the story-teller seated on a low chair, her audience meantime disporting themselves on the floor in attitudes of discomfort that are more suited for a game of honey-pots than the hearing of a story. Therefore English opponents of this movement are wont to make great capital of some of the American methods of administration. Ignoring our English rate limitations (which would make extravagant expenditure an impossibility), ignoring the differences of national temperament, they point to America, and cry "There, but for our sage and sober counsel, goes England." Exception is even taken to the whole idea of story-telling in the Juvenile Library on the plea that it is a usurpation of the work of the teacher. This position can only be held by those who do not realize the essential differences between the vocation of the story in the schools and in the libraries. In the

*Paper read before the Yorkshire Branch of the L.A.A. at Bradford on 13th June, 1912.

schools the story is used largely as a means of imparting definite specific knowledge, usually in connection with the syllabus of class-work; while the library uses it as an introduction to literature, an advertisement and sample of the library resources, its aim being to guide children in their search for a healthy and useful literary diet. Such is the aim of Library Story-telling, and as such it behoves us to use it.

A section of the library community are of opinion that story-telling should be handed over to the members of the teaching profession, on the ground that they are with children during the day, know their requirements and can satisfy their literary aspirations better than the librarian. To this I reply that I believe the library is strong enough to undertake this work without calling in outside assistance. I believe that we have men and women on our library staffs who are capable and willing to undertake story-telling, and from the very fact that they are not engaged in the routine of teaching would bring to the children a fresh and vigorous interest in the world of books. If this question is shelved for the next half-dozen years where shall we be? This movement is bound to come. Are we to wait with folded hands and closed eyes and, when at last we are compelled to undertake this work, to wake with the cry, "But this is so sudden?" This much is certain, if we are not ready when the call comes the work will be done, but not by us, and the library workers will have lost an opportunity of proving themselves alive to the needs of the times.

To turn to the more agreeable picture of the librarian who is prepared to adopt story-telling as part of his library's work. What are the necessary tools, and how should they be used? The story, a sheet of paper, some coloured chalks and a group of children. If need be the paper and chalks may be dispensed with and yet the equipment may be adequate. The story, whether of the nature, heroic, or fairy type should be a worthy and representative example. Give the children the best of its kind. Preparation and presentation are the dominant factors that make for success; you must know your story, not merely by rote, but by heart, you must put yourself in line with your story and your hearers. This leads to the important point of the story-teller's personality, where and how far it should be felt by the audience. My own experience in this matter is that nothing should obstruct the child's mental view; remember your object is to lead the child to read for himself, not to rely on your more or less limited capabilities as story-teller for his

mental food. The normal child keenly resents a flippantly superior attitude on the part of the story-teller, so don't be afraid of being in earnest; enjoy your story and you will receive the approval of the most callous critics the world contains—the children.

[Miss Hummerston concluded by telling a model story based on facts in the life history of a caterpillar, and illustrated by her own drawings in water-colour.]

PROCEEDINGS.

MIDLAND BRANCH.

A meeting of the Branch was held in the Birmingham Central Library, on Wednesday, September 18th. The afternoon was spent in visiting the extensive printing and bookbinding works of Messrs. BUCKLER & WEBB, where members were able to see the linotype machine at work and have its mechanism explained to them by the workman in charge. Machine folding, sewing and cutting, and processes of covering, casing, gilding, and marbling were among the many other operations connected with book production which were observed. The visit proved highly interesting and instructive.

After tea the meeting adjourned to the Central Public Library. Mr. DUNCAN GRAY (Coventry) read a paper entitled—"The Abolition of Fiction from the Lending Library," which provoked considerable discussion. Mr. Gray advocated, in a skilful manner, the entire abolition of fiction from the lending library, and advanced several ingenious arguments as to the benefits which would accrue to the public, the library, and the staff, in the event of such a step being taken. Many of his points were strongly contested by members present, most of whom did not support Mr. Gray's proposition. Mr. Gray was followed by Mr. ERIC A. PEPIETTE, with a paper on "Some features of Work in a College Library," which proved especially interesting, inasmuch as almost all the assistants present were unacquainted with this important department of library work. Mr. Peppiette's paper covered a wide field, and discussed, among other things, possible methods of co-operation between college and public libraries. The question of seeking the aid of the experts on the teaching staff of a university in the matter of book selection for a public library was a point raised by Mr. Peppiette and discussed at some length by the meeting. It was generally agreed that the success of such a step largely depended upon the personalities of the men concerned, and their power to subordinate their point of view as experts to that of the student and general reader. The interest aroused by Mr. Peppiette's paper was amply evidenced by the number of questions asked upon various aspects of college library work, all of which Mr. Peppiette kindly answered.

Hearty votes of thanks to the readers of the papers, to Messrs. Buckler and Webb for kindly allowing members to visit their works, and to Walter Powell, Esq., Chief Librarian, Birmingham, for granting the use of a room in the Central Library, were passed, and terminated the proceedings of a very interesting meeting.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

An ordinary bi-monthly meeting was held at Beverley on Thursday, 26th September, by the kind invitation of COUNCILLOR ELWELL, J.P., Chairman of the Beverley Public Library Committee.

Members assembled at the library at 4.30 and visited the Minster under the guidance of Rev. W. E. Wigfall. Although the time at the disposal of

the party was short, many objects of interest were shown with a few clear words of description. Proceeding from the Minster to the Art Gallery, the members were entertained to tea by Councillor Elwell, J.P., who was supported by the Mayor and members of the Library Committee.

At the meeting held subsequently, the chair was occupied by Councillor Elwell, when a paper on "The Librarian and His Mission" was read by Mr. R. McLEANNAN, Deputy Librarian of Leeds, in which he emphasised the value of personality in the librarian as being the vital factor in the successful work of the library. After touching on the old idea of the library being a place for the rich man, he went on to say, that it is now a necessity for the community at large, and the community must be taught its two great uses, first as a means towards increased usefulness and secondly as a means for recreation. The librarian, who was once merely a guardian of books, is becoming the guardian of the thought of the people; but because of the old idea of the exclusiveness of the library, the librarian must work with the people, and must adopt means to induce them to take possession of their own. The library has become an object of interest to all who are concerned with the educational movements of the present time, from its ability to supplement the work of the schools. Teacher and librarian should work by co-operative methods towards training children in the use of the library. The relation of the librarian to the public should be a personal rather than an official one, and therein lies his opportunity to increase the influence of good books against that of bad books. He must have direct relations with individuals. Books should be bought by the deliberate choice of each volume, and every assistance offered to the public to enable them to get the best they could when coming to the library. The relationship of the librarian to his staff should be such as to ensure good fellowship, since only on such a basis could genuine results be built up. The librarian should advertise the library by informing the public where they can get what they want. Such advertisement is perfectly legitimate. Everything possible should be done to dispel the poor man's doubt and distrust and to make him feel that the library is his.

A second paper was read by Mr. A. H. GILLGRASS, of Hull, on "A Comparison of the Classifications of Knowledge, proposed by Aristotle, Bacon, Comte and Spencer." Mr. Gillgrass first referred to the many attempts that had been made at various times to classify knowledge, and described the character and relationship to each other of the systems under consideration. The four philosophers, he said, pursued the same, *i.e.*, the objective method, in their investigations concerning the sciences. Their watchwords were experience and induction. Their reasoning was from things to principles and not from principles to things. Aristotle was the father of the method. Bacon was thoroughly conversant with his writings and was influenced thereby. Comte forms an interesting link between Bacon and Spencer, and Spencer's classification was probably the outcome of his opposition to, and criticism of, the Comtist "serial arrangement of the sciences." Because of its more or less universal nature, and because its purpose was to systematise and review the learning of his day as depicted in literature, Bacon's classification has had a profound influence on bibliographical classification schemes. "Right down to modern times" says Mr. Sayers, "nearly every scheme has been an inversion, perversion, or adjustment of this." The separate systems in vogue in two of England's largest libraries, the British Museum and the Bodleian, show many traces of Baconian scholarship.

The proceedings terminated with cordial votes of thanks to Councillor Elwell, the Mayor, the members of the Library Committee, Rev. W. E. Wigfall, and to Mr. Lockwood Huntley, the Beverley Librarian.

NOTABLE PROFESSIONAL LITERATURE.

LIBRARY WORK cumulated 1905-11: a Bibliography and Digest of Library Literature. *Ed. A. L. Guthrie.* 409 pp. 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. \times 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. 1912. Minneapolis, U.S.A.; H. W. Wilson & Co. Four dollars net.

To the numerous librarians who have been in the habit of perusing, during the last six years, the quarterly issues of "Library Work," the abrupt termination of this valuable periodical's career at the end of 1911 must have come as a disappointment. It is true that the "Library Journal" is carrying on the record from the point where the present volume leaves off, and for this we are grateful, but for convenience of handling the quarterly accumulations were more to our taste. Furthermore economy in space is now a far more important consideration than hitherto. Like the issues from which it has been cumulated the volume before us is an index to periodical literature of interest to the library world, the arrangement being alphabetical under subjects, and each entry being illustrated by long quotations from the writer recorded. The volume is in itself an encyclopaedia of library economy in all its branches, and displays many novel ideas for increasing the usefulness and value of libraries. In all, thirty-two periodicals are indexed, mainly American and English. Printed two columns to a page, the extracts given vary in length from an inch to a column in length. The subject of "Advertising the Library" on which so much fertile genius has been expended occupies six pages, and it must be a very sterile mind that cannot derive some advantage from the wisdom displayed in its forty-five articles. Strangely enough a topic such as "Abbreviations," on which almost every librarian and bibliographer has exercised his inventive ability—usually with weird results—demands only one entry. Still more strange, the ever pressing "Salaries" question only requires a column. Apparently money is a serious question with one writer only—an English chief librarian. "Children's Reading" gives rise to one hundred and thirty-two articles, mainly American, occupying fourteen pages. Other topics of considerable importance are Binding and Repairing; Cataloguing; Classification; School Libraries; Special Libraries; Travelling Libraries; etc.

In appearance the volume is excellent. Well printed and edited, it is a solid, neat looking quarto, in green cloth, and the publishers are to be congratulated on their enterprise. To the librarian and student librarian it is indispensable and well worth the moderate sum at which it is published.

J. W.

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY. An Expansion of the Dewey Decimal Classification Applied to Canada. 8 pp. 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. \times 7-in. *Toronto.* 1912.

A useful expansion of the Dewey number 971 Canada, British America. This has been worked out in great fullness with historical generalia divisions and specific geographical divisions. The notation has been accurately and economically developed. To the whole there is a satisfactory geographical index. To those of us who are disappointed with the much advertised, but entirely inadequate, 7th edition of Dewey, this will prove of value in the particular division expanded. It is possibly too minute for the average British collection of Canadiana, but the principal divisions may be used to advantage, and the Toronto Public Library has done good service in making the expansion accessible.

W.C.B.S.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FORMATION OF NORTH WESTERN BRANCH.

To the Editor of "The Library Assistant."

DEAR SIR,

With the receipt of the "August-September" number of the LIBRARY ASSISTANT, I am glad to see that there is an advocate for the formation of a North Western Branch of the Library Assistants' Association. This is what is required. We assistants who are already members of the "L.A.A.," read with interest the various papers contributed by our colleagues, and follow keenly all progress made and suggested by the mother Association, yet this distant view has to satisfy our wants. The Library Assistants' Association has, I believe, sent circulars to the Chief Librarians of the various libraries throughout the country, asking them to bring before the notice of those assistants who are not already members, that such an association exists. If ten assistants from various surrounding libraries could form themselves together and ask the Association to grant them a Constitution, I have not the slightest doubt that the formation of a North Western Branch would be a huge success. Again, those assistants who are already members, if they took it upon themselves, as a kind of duty, to persuade their colleagues who are not members to join, would be strengthening their branch, and at the same time carrying out the aims of the "L.A.A." The Manchester Assistants' Fellowship would have everything to gain in helping to form the Branch, and so linking themselves up with library assistants in the North West District.

In conclusion, I must congratulate Bolton assistants upon being the possessors of 63 certificates, an accomplishment of which, I think, the Chief Librarian is justly proud. Hoping before long to see the formation of a North Western Branch an established fact.

Central Library,
Stockport.

Yours truly,
MAURICE J. WRIGLEY.

THE FORMATION OF L.A.A. BRANCHES.

To the Editor of "The Library Assistant."

DEAR SIR,

Regarding the formation of Branch Associations of the L.A.A. may I point out one of the difficulties that branch members experience. The September Meeting of the Yorkshire Branch of the L.A.A. is to be held at Beverley. The circular convening this meeting gave the interesting information that "for members travelling from or *via* Leeds the fare is 4s. 1d. return." This meant that members from Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, and similar distant places would probably have to account for six shillings as travelling expenses. Conversely, when meetings are held in Leeds, Bradford, Halifax and the neighbouring towns, members from Hull, York, and East Yorkshire generally are faced with equally prohibitive travelling expenses. Now, sir, I maintain that few assistants can honestly afford sums of five or six shillings by way of travelling expenses to one particular meeting. The result is a poor attendance at these meetings, a spirit of indifference is engendered among the members by their inability to attend meetings, and thus much secretarial work and organisation is frustrated. Lancashire is another extensive area, and I feel confident—without being too pessimistic—that the formation of a Lancashire Branch of the L.A.A. will be accompanied by this very difficulty of prohibitive travelling expenses.

A solution to this difficulty may be found in the formation of associations or fellowships for smaller areas, such as those for Liverpool and Manchester. Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, and towns in the immediate neighbourhood could form one branch or association; Sheffield, Barnsley, and Wakefield, etc., another; Hull, York, Beverley, etc., another, and so on. These associations should, of course, be branches of the L.A.A. The formation of these branch associations would, in my opinion, reduce the "incidental expenses." Accordingly, members would be better able to afford a slightly increased subscription; and the resulting increased finances would enable the L.A.A. to issue an enlarged magazine of about 32 pages. Then we could expect full reports of the work done by the various branches—a much desired improvement—as a means of recording and circulating information regarding the work done by the branches. I merely put this forward as a suggestion in the hope that the practical interest of members may be roused, and active efforts directed towards the solution of these difficulties retarding the work of existing branches.

Central Reference Library,
Bradford,

Faithfully yours,
ROBT. W. PARSONS.

September 20th, 1912.

[The difficulty experienced by our correspondent is a very real one; but, for the present, his suggested solution itself contains difficulties as great. Until a much larger membership is assured, a group of small branches would be hardly workable at the present small subscription rate. Another solution is for the branch committees to arrange meetings at different centres so as to cater alternately for all the districts within their boundaries. This would assure an attendance from the assistants within easy reach, and there would probably always be others from greater distances who could attend. In regard to South Lancashire, there are so many towns in close proximity, connected by an extensive system of tramways as well as by rail, that the district would be one of the most convenient for the arrangement of meetings.—ED.]

APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES.

*CAMPLIN, Mr. P. W., Branch Librarian, Isleworth, has been appointed Chief Librarian of the Heston and Isleworth Urban District Public Libraries, *vice* Mr. D. Loinaz, resigned.

FORTESCUE, DR. G. K., Keeper of Printed Books in the British Museum, will retire on October 31st next under the age limit.

*SHARPHOUSE, Mr. DIXON, Librarian of the Central Lending Department of the Leeds Public Libraries, has been appointed Librarian of the Woodhouse Moor Branch Library, Leeds.

*STROTHER, Mr. GEORGE W., Sub-Librarian of the Reference Department, Leeds, has been appointed Librarian of the Central Lending Department.

*TAYLOR, Mr. R. H., Senior Assistant in the Balsall Heath Branch of the Birmingham Public Libraries, has been appointed Librarian of the Deritend Branch.

*TRELIVING, Mr. NORMAN, Librarian of the Woodhouse Moor Branch Library, Leeds, has been appointed Sub-Librarian of the Reference Library.

*WOODBINE, Mr. H., Librarian of the Selly Oak Branch of the Birmingham Public Libraries, has been appointed Senior Assistant in the Reference Library.

* Member L.A.A.